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**Committees:**

- Insurance, Financial Services & Consumer Protection — Chair
- Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness
- Judiciary



# Representative Steve Kirby

## 29th District

January 2008

Dear Neighbor:

Greetings once again from this strange land they call "Olympia." I'm happy to report that there actually is intelligent life here if one is willing to overlook all the unintelligent (i.e., partisan) politics.

The good news is that the two parties got together in a special session a couple months ago and reinstated Initiative 747. This action limits property-tax-rate increases before certain local governments can raise them as much as 30 percent. **There will be more discussion about property-tax reform during our regular session.**

I had a pretty good off-season. I prime-sponsored the bill in the House last year that eventually became last fall's Referendum 67. **The referendum was passed by the voters to make insurance companies pay legitimate claims.** We made some compromises as we worked on this issue last session. We did so in an effort to appease the insurance industry in hopes they wouldn't file their own referendum. **That didn't work, so we might put those provisions back in this year.**

We still have a lot of work to do on education, transportation and health care. But I'll spend most of my time concentrating on issues in the committees I sit on. Every year, the House Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee passes legislation to tighten the screws on criminals and sex offenders. And yet every year it seems these criminals find another way to exploit holes in the law. In Judiciary, we're constantly working to keep the trains running on time in the court system. That's a good fit with the criminal-law issues in my other committees.

**But as chair of the House Insurance, Financial Services & Consumer Protection Committee, the bulk of my time will again be spent working on sub-prime mortgage-lending issues. The challenge there will be to protect consumers from being victimized by unscrupulous lending practices. We don't want to go so far however, as to prevent hard-working people with good credit from buying a house. Sometimes the government "helps" people so much that we inadvertently end up hurting them. It's my job to prevent that.**

**We've got a year's worth of work to do in this 60-day session, so things are getting hectic.**

Stay tuned,

Steve Kirby  
State Representative  
29<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

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Steve Kirby  
29th District**



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